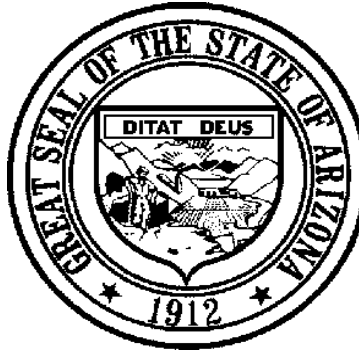


Arizona Department of Water Resources

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For Immediate Release:
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Jane Dee Hull
Governor
Joseph C. Smith
Director

NEWS RELEASE

Public Information
(602) 417-2400 – ext. 7133

NEW AREA DIRECTOR NAMED; LINDA STITZER TO ASSUME STATEWIDE PLANNING ROLE

Director Joseph C. Smith announced today the appointment of Cindy Shimokusu as Area Director for the Tucson Active Management Area. The Director also announced that Linda Stitzer, the current Area Director, will assume an expanded planning and policy role to focus on rural areas statewide.

"We're fortunate to have talented people like Cindy Shimokusu and Linda Stitzer to draw upon as we shift our resources to meet changing needs in this fast-growing state," Director Smith said. Shimokusu has been with the Arizona Department of Water Resources since 1995. Stitzer joined the Department in 1986 and has been Area Director since March 2001.

"Cindy Shimokusu is a very talented person and will make a superb Area Director," Smith said. "She has been successful in every assignment since she joined the Department."

Additionally, "With the Governor's commitment to expanded planning for water supplies in rural Arizona, we are pledged to devoting senior personnel to this issue," the Director added. "I can't think of another person who is more capable than Linda Stitzer." In addition to her job as Tucson Area Director, Stitzer has been working on long-term solutions to water issues in the San Pedro River region of Southeastern Arizona.

Herb Dishlip, Assistant Director for Statewide Water Planning, said he looks forward to using Stitzer's rural planning experience. "We hope to expand her focus beyond the region to other rural areas," Dishlip said.

In its report to Governor Jane Dee Hull, the Governor's Water Management Commission recommended greater focus on rural Arizona. "Based on this recommendation, the Department will devote more attention to reaching long-term solutions for water issues in the rural areas of Arizona," Dishlip added.

For additional information, call: 602 417-2400 ext. 7133